

medical products. Platform technologies were developed through programs like Operation Warp Speed and RADx that put us leaps and bounds ahead. These types of technologies are force multipliers, allowing us to bring new options to patients with cancer, infectious diseases, and life-threatening conditions by adapting the same underlying technology. We need a Commissioner who understands and will advance these breakthroughs.

I urge my colleagues, support Dr. Califf's nomination because he will provide the leadership needed to promote today's biomedical advancements and help to pave the way for tomorrow's innovation.

As many know, I have been one of the FDA's toughest critics over the years. However, I am critical because I believe in the Agency's mission, and I know that American patients pay the price if the FDA falls behind.

The FDA has an opportunity to be forever changed for the better, but it needs effective leadership to get there. Dr. Califf knows the Agency well, understands the value of innovation underway in academia, and knows firsthand how the private sector is advancing cutting-edge science that can benefit all Americans.

I urge my colleagues this morning to support the nomination of Robert Califf.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to Dr. Califf, and I have spoken before on this. I just want to say this for a minute or two here.

I respect everyone's position on this and their decision, but I have never had anything that has affected my State and constituents in my State and our country more than the opioid addiction.

This opioid addiction started because of the FDA's decision to bring a product to market in 1995 that has destroyed many families, many communities, many businesses, people's lives forever. In story after story—there is not a Senator in this body who doesn't have someone in their family, immediate family or extended family, or a constituent who hasn't been affected.

With that, you need to change the dynamics of the leadership over there. Dr. Califf was there 5 years ago. He is coming back. Nothing has changed. Four hundred thousand people have died since he was there, and we are going down the same path.

Unless we change that dynamic, that leadership position on trying to protect the people of America without putting more and more horrible drugs on the market—there was one drug back in, I think it was 2014, 2013 or 2014, called Zohydro, and the advisory committee recommended 11 to 2: Do not bring this drug to market. They did it anyway. It was 11 to 2, don't do it. These are experts. They said two pills can kill a human being. They brought it continu-

ously. They continue to bring more opiates to the market.

We don't need this product on the market to kill more Americans. This Administration, under Robert Califf, will take the same old, same old as they did before. Nothing will change.

I urge all of my colleagues, please consider what you are doing. Consider your family and your constituents and please vote against Robert Califf.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I urge all of my colleagues to give families across the country the peace of mind and give the hard-working staff at the FDA the experienced, Senate-confirmed leadership it needs by joining me in confirming Dr. Califf today and working with him and FDA to continue protecting families across our country, upholding the gold standard of safety and effectiveness, and putting science and data first.

We previously confirmed Dr. Califf in this role in a bipartisan way, and we recently advanced his nomination out of the HELP Committee with bipartisan support. So I hope today, once again, this qualified nomination passes with the bipartisan support it deserves. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of North Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

VOTE ON CALIFF NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Califf nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 55 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Blunt	Brown
Bennet	Booker	Burr

Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Collins	Menendez	Smith
Coons	Merkley	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Tester
Duckworth	Murphy	Toomey
Durbin	Murray	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Ossoff	Warner
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warnock
Heinrich	Peters	Warren
Hickenlooper	Reed	Whitehouse
Hirono	Romney	Wyden
Kaine	Rosen	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Hassan	Portman
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	Markey	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	Young
Grassley	Moran	
Hagerty	Paul	

PRESENT AND GIVING A LIVE PAIR—1

Rounds, against

NOT VOTING—3

Capito	Graham	Luján
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Mr. ROUNDS. On this vote, I have a pair with the junior Senator from New Mexico, Mr. LUJÁN. If he were present and voting, he would vote yea. If I were permitted to vote, I would vote nay. I, therefore, withdraw my vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 46, and one Senator responded "present."

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:13 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Kansas.

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to express my support for the Postal Service Reform Act, a piece of legislation that we expected to be on the Senate floor this week and look forward to it appearing shortly.

The U.S. Postal Service has been struggling to stay financially solvent for years, and I am pleased Congress is finally—I say "finally." I think for as long as I have been in the Senate and perhaps as long as I have been in Congress, we have been working to address